

Appl. No. 09/921,856
Amdt. dated Aug. 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Apr. 7, 2004
Docket No. BOC9-2000-0082 (217)

Amendments to the Claims:

Applicants respectfully request that the following listing of claims be entered in lieu of all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for generating a list of common contacts, comprising the steps of:

first retrieving a plurality of contacts from an exposed, remotely accessible contact list, the exposed, remotely accessible contact list defining a first set associated with a user;

first comparing said first retrieved contacts to stored contacts in a locally accessible contact list, said locally accessible contact list defining a second set distinct from said first set and associated with a different user;

first identifying common contacts among said first compared contacts;

second retrieving a plurality of contacts from an exposed, remotely accessible contact list associated with one of said first retrieved contacts;

second comparing said second retrieved contacts to said locally stored contacts;

second identifying common contacts among said second compared contacts; and,

[storing] generating and storing a common contacts list, the common contacts list defining yet another distinct set and containing said identified common contacts [in a list of common contacts].

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of repeating said second retrieving, second comparing and second identifying steps for each first retrieved contact not identified as a common contact in said first identifying step.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said second retrieving step comprises the step of second retrieving a plurality of contacts from an exposed, remotely accessible contact list associated with one of said first retrieved contacts not identified as a common contact in said first identifying step.

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4. (Currently amended) A method of generating a list of common contacts, comprising the steps of:

exchanging at least two contact lists over a physical communications link, wherein each contact list defines a distinct set different from the other and corresponds to a different user,

comparing contacts in said exchanged contact lists to identify matching contacts; and,
generating and storing a contact list defining yet another distinct set and containing said
matched contacts [in a common contact list].

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said exchanging step comprises the steps of:

establishing a wireless communications link; and,

exchanging said contact lists over said established wireless communications link.

6. (Currently amended) A method of generating a list of common contacts, comprising the steps of:

accessing a contact list defining a set being stored in a remotely accessible database of contacts;

comparing contacts in said contact list with contacts in a stored database of contacts defining another distinct set, said contact list and said contacts in a stored database of contacts each corresponding to a different user], said comparison producing matching contacts, wherein said contact list and said contacts in a stored database of contacts each correspond to a different user]; and,

producing matching contacts as a result of said comparing;

providing a visual hyperlink for each matching contact produced by said comparing step.

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7. (Currently amended) A common contact identification system comprising:
at least two contact lists, each said contact list defining a distinct set comprising a plurality of contacts, each said contact list having a publicly accessible interface through which said contacts can be accessed remotely, each said contact list corresponding to a different user;
a comparator for comparing contacts in each of said at least two contact lists, said comparator identifying matching contacts in each of said at least two contact lists; and,
a common contact list resulting from the comparison and defining yet another distinct set comprising contacts matched by said comparator.
8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein each said contact list is stored in a storage medium selected from the group consisting of a database, a contact management program data store, an e-mail program address book, an instant messenger address book, a cellular phone address book and a personal digital assistant address book.
9. (Original) The system of claim 7, further comprising a communications link between said contact lists over which said contacts in said contact lists can be transmitted.
10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein said communications link is selected from the group consisting of an infrared communications link, a short range radio frequency communications link, and a TCP/IP wireline link.
11. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said common contact list comprises at least one hyperlinked address of a matched contact.
12. (Currently amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for generating a list of common contacts, said machine readable storage having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform a series of steps, said steps comprising:

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first retrieving a plurality of contacts from an exposed, remotely accessible contact list, the exposed, remotely accessible contact list defining a first set associated with a user;

first comparing said first retrieved contacts to stored contacts in a locally accessible contact list, said locally accessible contact list defining a second set distinct from said first set and associated with a different user;

first identifying common contacts among said first compared contacts;

second retrieving a plurality of contacts from an exposed, remotely accessible contact list associated with one of said first retrieved contacts;

second comparing said second retrieved contacts to said locally stored contacts;

second identifying common contacts among said second compared contacts; and,

[storing] generating and storing a common contacts list, the common contacts list defining yet another distinct set of contacts and containing said identified common contacts [in a list of common contacts].

13. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 12, further comprising the step of repeating said second retrieving, second comparing and second identifying steps for each first retrieved contact not identified as a common contact in said first identifying step.

14. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 12, wherein said second retrieving step comprises the step of second retrieving a plurality of contacts from an exposed, remotely accessible contact list associated with one of said first retrieved contacts not identified as a common contact in said first identifying step.

15. (Currently amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for generating a list of common contacts, said machine readable storage having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform a series of steps, said steps comprising:

identifying a contact list defining a set of contacts corresponding to a user;

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identifying at least one other contact list defining a different set of contacts corresponding to a different user;

exchanging at least two of said contact lists over a physical communications link[, wherein each contact list corresponds to a different user];

comparing contacts in said exchanged contact lists to identify matching contacts; and,

storing said matched contacts in a common contact list said common contact list defining an additional distinct set of contacts.

16. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 15, wherein said exchanging step comprises the steps of:

establishing a wireless communications link; and,

exchanging said contact lists over said established wireless communications link.

17. (Currently amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for generating a list of common contacts, said machine readable storage having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform a series of steps, said steps comprising:

accessing a contact list in a remotely accessible database of contacts, said contact list defining a set of contacts corresponding to a user;

comparing contacts in said contact list with contacts in a stored database of contacts defining a different set of contacts corresponding to a different user[, said comparison producing matching contacts, wherein said contact list and said contacts in a stored database of contacts each correspond to a different user]; [and,]

producing matching contacts as a result of said comparing; and,

providing a visual hyperlink for each matching contact produced by said comparing step.